



Developing College-Level Knowledge and Skills in High School

The Advanced Placement® Program (AP®) enables students to tackle college-level work while they're still in high school and earn college credit and placement. The AP Program develops college-level courses high schools can choose to offer and corresponding AP Exams that are administered once a year.

THE BENEFITS OF AP COURSES & EXAM



STAND OUT ON COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

AP courses on a student's transcript show they've challenged themselves with the most rigorous courses available to them. And success on an AP Exam shows they're ready for college-level coursework.



SAVE TIME AND MONEY IN COLLEGE

Most four-year colleges and universities in the United States—as well as many institutions in more than 100 other countries—grant students credit, placement, or both for qualifying AP Exam scores. This can mean fulfilling graduation requirements early and/or being able to skip introductory courses.

Research shows students who take AP courses and exams are much more likely than their peers to complete a college degree on time,¹ which means they avoid paying for additional years of tuition.



PARTICIPATION MATTERS

While a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam in high school gives students the chance to earn college credit, advanced placement in college courses, or both, evidence highlights how AP students who earn scores lower than a 3 benefit from their experiences in AP.

- Students are more likely to enroll in a 4-year college.
- In introductory college courses, students perform as well as or better than those who didn't take AP.

CHANGING THE INVITATION

The AP Program continues to develop courses that are relevant to students' interests and career aspirations and engage them in more rigorous coursework earlier in high school.

Nearly 1.2 million students in the class of 2023 took more than 4.1 million AP Exams in public high schools nationwide, as educators across the country continue to enable a wider and more diverse population of students to experience the benefits of AP courses.

AP AT A GLANCE

The AP Program offers 40 courses in a variety of disciplines, including art, science, math, and history.

"There is a vast variety of AP courses that students can pick from. Getting college credit and being exposed to more advanced courses is incredibly important for your own growth. It may be a little challenging at first, but that's OK. People only learn when they're challenged. Think of taking AP courses as an investment in your own future."

—Thomas, AP Alum

1. Hargrove, L., Godin, D., & Dodd, B. (2008). College Outcomes Comparisons by AP® and Non-AP High School Experiences. Research Report No. 2008-3. New York: College Board.